

RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(E. HUGHES JONES, M.D., C.M., J.P.)

FOR THE YEAR

1940

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my twenty-third Annual Report twenty-three months of the war with all its implications and rationing restrictions in various forms, I think we ought all to be very thankful that, so far, we have not suffered any real hardship, either in the way of terrors from invasion or shortage of the essential necessities of life, such as, bread, meat, milk, butter and vegetables except, perhaps, fresh fruit such as, oranges etc. But we ought to remember that soft fruit, such as, blackcurrants, apples etc. supply quite as much vitamins, and more than oranges etc. imported from abroad. In fact, it may be a blessing in disguise in encouraging the production of home grown fruit and not allowing thousands of gardens and orchards to become derelict from want of care and attention, which is sure waste of potential sources of nourishment for which there is no excuse.

The Report follows the form required by the Ministry of Health Circular (2067 Wales).

Herewith, I append comparative statistics relating to the various health services in the district, which reflects with great credit upon the activities of the various health services, especially when we remember the greatly increased population from various sources that have come into the town.

Taking a broad view, the general health of the town has been good. No serious epidemics have occurred, sporadic cases of fever have been isolated and in no instance has it assumed a menace to the health of the town, as you will see from the Health Statistics. Here I should like to mention the admirable work that has been done at the R.U.D.C. Isolation Hospital and by the staff, the increased facilities provided by the extra accommodation being utilised to its utmost extent. No case which may spread infection is refused admission.

IMMUNISATION.

This form of prevention, being better than cure, is amply proved by the general lessening of the Diphtheria death role in some of the largest towns that have published statistics. But, to my mind, it ought to include children prior to school age (1 to 5 years of age) to be really effective. In protecting susceptible children in the tender age it has to be done privately but not all parents, unfortunately, appreciate the necessity for it.

IMMUNISATION FIGURES.

Date	School Age.	No. of children who received injections.	Under School Age	No. of children who received injections.
26th - 23th Nov.1940.	" "	1,838	" "	187
10th - 12th Dec.1940.	" "	107	" "	25
TOTAL		1,945	TOTAL	212

Total Number of School Children who received injections	1,945
" " " Children under school age who received injections	212
TOTAL	<u>2,157</u>

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital was first intended for the more common and generally recognised fever cases for isolation: viz:- Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever. There have not been any cases of the latter in Rhyl for a number of years.

The following cases have been admitted:- Measles, Whooping Cough, Broncho-pneumonia and skin diseases, such as Scabies, the latter, although not fatal, it must be remembered accounted for 90% in one British Army, so that the seriousness of it can at once be realised and no possible means existed outside for the proper treatment of these cases, which are most difficult to eradicate. One member of a family being a source of infection to everyone he or she comes in contact with and that is why severe cases have been taken in for treatment and very well it has been done.

This only shows how necessary it is to have adequate means and accommodation available in cases of this kind to prevent its spreading, which cannot be satisfactorily treated in their own homes.

I would like to thank my Medical Colleagues for their loyal and valuable assistance and collaboration during this critical period and abnormal time.

All the patients and their relatives have been grateful for the kind and efficient treatment they have received. There has not been one complaint and several have insisted in making donations in token of gratitude for the care that has been taken for their welfare.

(The Hospital has taken in the overflow from St. Asaph, Prestatyn and Sunnyvale Camp).

In order to give some idea of the work done at the Isolation Hospital I would like to make it known what the following figures show from 1/1/40 to 31/12/40.

Disease.	No. of Cases Admitted.	Result.
Scarlet Fever	22	All cured.
Diphtheria	18	" "
Measles	11	" "
Chicken Pox	1	"
Dysentery (Suspect)	1	"
Streptococcal Throat	1	"
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	25	24 cured. 1 died (in hospital 5 days). 96% cured
Pneumococcal Meningitis	2	2 died. 1 in hospital 2 days. 1 in hospital 3 hrs.
TOTAL	81	78 cured. 5 died. = 96.4% cured.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The only increases in other diseases have been Cancer and Tuberculosis. But with increased facilities for early diagnosis, and it naturally follows early treatment, there is every hope and prospect that even these conditions will be more amenable to treatment. Whether mass radiology is possible it is difficult to say but one thing is certain that radiology is the most effective means yet available for the early diagnosis of T.B. cases, whether in bones, joints or chest and, as there is no doubt that immense advances have been made in medical and surgical science, it makes the future outlook hopeful in saving thousands of valuable lives and in stamping out disease.

WATER.

The water supply is abundant and the purity assured by frequent analysis, sometimes taken every week to make quite sure that it is satisfactory (borrowing the term from the Analysts' Reports). The importance of this, quoting the British Medical Journal, is that there can be little doubt that our first line of defence against a serious recrudescence of Enteric is the maintenance of the purity of domestic water supplies. The prevention and the suppression of water borne disease are comparatively simple matters in times of peace. The case is very different when we are at war. At such times agencies directly or indirectly attributable to enemy action may counteract the most elaborate safeguards which water undertaking may provide. So I suggest that some alternate means may be considered and instructions given in case the water supply is cut off so that the available supply be rendered safe and fit to use.

The Public Baths have also been receiving attention, analysis being taken to render them as safe as possible in order to safeguard the people using them.

THE CUT.

The cleansing of the Cut has been attended to and there is very little now to be complained of, the result of the care and attention that has been given during the last year or two.

THE ABATTOIR.

The Abattoir has thoroughly justified its need.

See the figures supplied by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FROM 1/1/40 to 31/12/40.

Beasts	1,603
Calves	816
Sheep & Lambs	26,657
Pigs	2,794
TOTAL	<u>31,870</u>

QUANTITY OF MEAT SEIZED AND DESTROYED FROM 1/1/40 to 31/12/40.

10 tons. 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. 9 lbs.

CAMPING.

All the licenced camping grounds in the district were visited periodically and the general health conditions were found to be satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

This work is being done where necessary.

The number of houses found to be infested during the year were:-

7 Council Houses and 11 private houses, which were disinfested.

The method employed for freeing the houses from bed bugs were:-

7 Council and 11 private houses:- Spraying with vermicine and sulphur dioxide gas.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Under present conditions only the bare figures are given.

BIRTH RATE.

During the year there were registered after inward and outward transfers, 262 births (R.G.R.), viz:- 137 males and 125 females. Out of this number 14 males and 8 females were illegitimate. The rate on the estimated population is 14.33 per 1,000 or 1.24 lower than that of 1939, and 19.43 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). The birth rate for England and Wales for the same period is 14.6. The local Registrar's returns show that 245 births, viz:- 128 males and 117 females were registered within the district - which is equal to the rate of 13.40 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290) 18.17 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

DEATH RATE.

The total deaths from all causes registered (R.G.R.) was 264, viz:- 122 males and 142 females, which gives a corrected death rate of 14.43 per 1,000 of the population, and is lower than that of 1939 by 0.04 and a rate of 19.58 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). The local Registrar's returns show that 273 deaths were registered within the district - which is equal to a rate of 14.93 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290); 20.24 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485); but of that number (273) 43 were non-residents whose deaths were registered and transferred to their different localities. On the other hand 30 persons belonging to the district died outside its boundaries, and are to be added to the local deaths of residents, giving a true or "corrected" death rate of 14.22 of the estimated population (18,290); 19.28 of the census population (13,485).

The adjusted Death Rate, i.e., the crude death rate (14.43 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) multiplied by the Comparability Factor (0.88 supplied by the Registrar General): 22.08.

Rate amongst persons aged 65 years and upwards:-

At this age period 154 deaths occurred between the ages of 65 and 94, the average being 76 years, giving a rate of 8.42 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290) and 11.42 per 1,000 of the census population, (13,485).

The 154 deaths equal 50.8 per cent. of the total deaths registered inside and outside the district, i.e., 273 local deaths plus 30 deaths of persons transferred to the district - 303.

In the total of 154, 15 non-residents whose deaths were registered and transferred in their own districts and 17 belonging to this district, whose deaths were registered elsewhere, are included.

The total percentage of deaths aged 65 years and upwards actually belonging to the district, after inward and outward transfers, is equal to 51.5.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

2 Deaths occurred from the principal Zymotic Diseases, equal to a rate of 0.11 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290), and 0.15 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Amongst infants under one year there were 25 deaths (R.F.R.) or in the proportion of 92.3 per 1,000 registered births, as against 55 for England and Wales and 56.2 for the district in 1939.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

4 deaths were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis, equal to 0.22 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290), and 0.30 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

OTHER TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES.

Under this heading one death occurred, equal to a rate of 0.05 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290), and 0.07 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485).

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Under this heading five deaths occurred, equal to a rate of 0.27 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290); and 0.37 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). Also Bronchitis 17, equal to a rate of 0.93 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290) and 1.26 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485). Pneumonia 16 equal to a rate of 0.87 per 1,000 of the estimated population, and 1.19 per 1,000 of the census population.

DEATH RATE FROM CANCER.

30 deaths were ascribed to Cancer, the rate being 1.64 per 1,000 of the estimated population (18,290), and 2.22 per 1,000 of the census population (13,485); a decrease of 0.42 on that of 1939.

VACCINATION RETURNS.

The local Registrar has supplied me with the following information:-

During the year 1940 the number of successful vaccinations were 40, whilst 109 exemptions were granted, and 23 died unvaccinated. The number of births were 262, showing that only 15.3 per cent. of the children born were vaccinated.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHSMATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This section of Public Health Administration is entirely under the control of the Flintshire County Council and their Health Visitor. A Welfare Centre has been established at the Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road, at which local ladies also give voluntary assistance.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

This Department is also under the control of the Flintshire County Council, the nearest station for treatment being Chester.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases admitted into the Hospital was 81.

Scarlet Fever	22
Diphtheria	18
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	25
Pneumococcal Meningitis	2
Chicken Pox	1
Dysentery (Suspect)	1
Streptococcal Throat	1
Measles	11

During the last ten years the number of cases of Infectious Diseases admitted and the Mortality Rate are as follows:-

Year	Cases Admitted.	Deaths.	Mortality Rate per 1,000
1931	42	-	-
1932	36	1	27.7
1933	104	5	48.1
1934	87	5	57.5
1935	59	1	16.9
1936	26	1	38.4
1937	52	1	19.2
1938	49	1	20.4
1939	42	2	47.6
1940	81	3	57.0

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area - Exclusive of Foreshore	1,700 acres
Area - Inclusive of Foreshore	2,579 acres
Population at Census 1901	8,461
Population at Census 1911	9,005
Population at Census 1921	13,490
Population at Census 1931	13,485
Population R.G. Estimate 1940	18,290
Number of inhabited houses at Census 1931	3,013
Number of families or separate occupiers 1931	3,183
Rateable Value ending March 31st, 1941	£167,193
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	2644
Number of Inhabited Houses, according to Rate Books	5,090

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

(Registrar-General's Returns).

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	240	123	117) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.32
Illegitimate	22	14	8	
Still Births	8	5	3) Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..29.63
Deaths	264	112	142	
) Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.43
Deaths from puerperal causes:-	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
Puerperal Sepsis	0	...		
Other Puerperal causes	0	...		
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-				
All Infants per 1,000 live births				92.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				84.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				181.8
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				30

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The only noteworthy causes of sickness outside the notifiable or (epidemic) diseases were: Bronchial Colds, Influenza Colds and Catarrh.

SCHOOL AND MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

The five elementary and 2 central schools, and one secondary school, within the district have received attention.

Epidemic sickness, viz:- Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza Colds, and Mumps, were prevalent at varying periods, in consequence of which some of the schools were closed for periods, as a preventative measure. All the schools were disinfected after closure and during the holiday periods. The Medical Inspection of the children attending the schools is carried out by the County Medical Officer and Staff. There is a School Clinic at the Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road, which is open each Monday between 1.30 and 4 p.m., when a Doctor is present.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Herewith I append the Report and Statistics supplied to me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. L. Lloyd Jones, also the usual statistics.

(Signed) E. HUGHES JONES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1940,
TABLE I. - GENERAL SUMMARY.

Number of complaints received	1,167
Number of Drains and W.C.'s Released and Cleansed by Department .	1,042
Number of Nuisances Found	313
Number of Nuisances abated	287
Number of Nuisances Not Abated	26
Number of Preliminary Notices Served	254
Number of Statutory Notices Served	48
Number of Reference to Officials	5
Number of Visits to Infectious Diseases and Enquiries	140

TABLE II. - SANITARY DEFECTS.

Damp Living and Bedrooms	13
Defective Chimney Pots, Flues and Stacks	8
Defective Roofs	11
Defective Floors, Living and Bedrooms	4
Defective Gutters and Downspouting	7
Defective Plaster, Wall and Ceilings	10
Defective Window Frames, Casings and Doors	7
Cords to Windows and Fastenings	2
Defective Dustbins	89
Defective Kitchen Ranges and Grates	10
Overcrowding	2
Remove Accumulation	9
Defective Pavement	4
Filthy Houses and Rooms	5
Offensive Manure Heap	1
Defective Kitchen Boiler	2
Defective Entrance Gates	2
Limowashing Overdue	1
Miscellaneous	6

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS

Choked Drains or W.C.s.	18
Defective Fittings, W.C. and Sinks	23
Defective drains	12
Defective W.C. Premises	3
Defective Access Covers and Chambers	6
Boxed-in Water Closets	4

Absence of Water Supply	16
Defective Gully and Surrounds	1
Defective Waste Pipes	2
Defective Soil Pipe	3
Burst Water Service	8
Defective Flushing Cistern	3
Filthy Latrines, W.C. Premises or Posing	3
Cracked Ditch	1
	<u>500</u>

FACTORIES.

Filthy W.C. Premises	1
Linewashing Overdue	11
Filthy Bakehouse	1

TABLE III. - INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Cases Reported by M.O.H. and Enquiries made	119
Number of Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital	61
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Lamp and Spray	137
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Sulphur	20
Number of Houses Disinfected, Sulphur	6
Number of Houses Disinfected, Spray	19
Number of Houses Disinfected, Lamp and Spray	-
Number of Canteens Disinfected, Spray only	7
Number of Rooms Disinfected, Spray only	67
Number of Wards Disinfected	53
Number of Articles Disinfected by Steam	16,174
Number of Articles Disinfected by Lamp only	226
Number of Schools Disinfected	11
Number of Motor Ambulances, Taxis or Cabs Disinfected	212
Number of Books Destroyed	37
Number of Articles Destroyed with Consent of Owner	17
Disinfectors Used (Steam)	118

TABLE IV. - SCAVENGING.

Loads of Ashes to Refuse Destructor and Tip	3688 $\frac{1}{2}$
Loads of Trade Refuse to Destructor and Tip	733 $\frac{1}{4}$
Loads of Fish Refuse to Destructor and Tip	105
Loads of Pumping Station Refuse	87
	<u>4613$\frac{5}{4}$</u>

Total Loads: 4613 $\frac{5}{4}$ - 15.15 per working day.

UNSCOUND FOOD.

During the year the following from Slaughterhouses and Tradesmen's Premises were condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and their use for such purpose prevented, some being voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

2 Pigs Heads.
 2 Beasts Heads.
 1 Sheeps Liver.
 1 Tinned Liver.
 3 Legs of Pork.
 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Roast Pork.
 2 Coked Hams.
 24 lbs. Stewed Ham.
 4 lbs. Turkey & Pan Roll.
 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Tinned Ham.
 6 lbs. Corned Mutton.
 6 lbs. Pressed Brisket.
 5 Tins Gelatined Beef.
 525 lbs. Kippers.
 16 lbs. Flaloo.
 84 lbs. Cold Muttons.
 13 Tins Salmon.
 29 Tins Mackerels.
 35 Tins Sardines.

7 Tins Pilchards.
3 Tins Mackerel.
148 Tins Fruit.
1 Tin Tomatoes.
27 Tins Beans.
2 Tins Pork & Beans.
48 Tins Peas.
7 Tins Soup.
2 lbs. Lentils.
4½ lbs. Macaroni.
5 lbs. Tapioca.
2 lbs. Semolina.
11 lbs. Cereals.
2 Small Cheeses.
13 Tins Milk.
6 lbs. Bread.
1 Bottle Pickles.
6 Bottles Chicken & Ham Paste.
96 Steak & Kidney Pies.
1 Veal & Ham Pie.
74 Pastries.
30 Custards.
8 Chocolate Gateaux.
1 Chocolate Cake.
5 Globe Cakes.
2 Pieces of Cake.
6 Jellies.

Health Department,
Council Offices,

REPLY.

August, 1941.

